

60,130-1293  
00MRA0037REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Claims 1-17 and 19-22 are currently pending and stand rejected. Applicant has amended claims 1, 3-4, and 16. No new matter has been added.

Formal issues

The Office Action objected to the drawings under 37 CFR § 1.83(a), stating that the drawings do not show the claimed pre-deformed portion of the assembly and an associated region of the door panel. Applicant respectfully disagrees. As discussed in the specification at page 3, line 22 to page 4, line 3, the cylinder 26 or other similar deformed portion can be considered a pre-deformed portion that engages with a protrusion 18 on the door panel 12, as shown in Figures 1 and 2. The Figures therefore show each and every features of the invention specified in the claims. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Applicant has amended the claims to improve their readability without changing their scope or range of equivalents. Thus, the amendments do not raise any issues that would raise new grounds of rejection.

§ 102 rejection

Claims 1-7, 10-12, 15-17 and 19-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,067,531 to Sikula ("Sikula"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Sikula is not directed to securing any window regular mechanism components to a door panel. Instead, Sikula is directed to a system that isolates an engine cover 18 from an engine 12 (col. 1, lines 24-36 and lines 62-68). Thus, the cover 18 cannot be considered the claimed door panel, nor can the engine 12 be considered a subassembly. Also, nothing in Sikula even mentions a window regulator mechanism, let alone a window regulator drive system component or a window regulator housing component secured to a door panel. Instead, Sikula only refers to a sleeve 38 and a gasket 16 generically without suggesting that the sleeve 38 and gasket 16 are part of any other device, much less a window regulator mechanism.

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Although the Office Action appears to equate the sleeve 38 with the claimed window regulator drive mechanism, the Office Action fails to explain how a simple sleeve structure could even be considered the same as a drive mechanism that operates a window, particularly when the entire description in Sikula does not view the sleeve 38 as anything other than a mere cylinder that is completely enclosed by the cover 18 and the engine 12. In fact, Sikula only states that the sleeve 38 is generally metallic (col. 2, lines 11-13). Nothing in Sikula remotely suggests that the sleeve 38 forms any part of any drive mechanism for a window regulator.

Similarly, the gasket 16 cannot be equated to the claimed window regulator housing component because the gasket 16 is clearly a simple seal, not a part of any housing. As shown in Figures 1 and 2, the gasket 16 merely acts as a cushion between the cover 18 and the engine 12 as the bolt 22 is tightened and does not itself form part of a housing for any device (see, e.g., col. 2, lines 18-37).

Further, even if the structures noted by the Office Action could arguably be considered to correspond with a window regulator mechanism, Sikula fails to disclose a system where the door panel, window regulator housing component, and window regulator drives system are all secured by a fourth component. Instead, Sikula secures two components (an engine cover 18 and an engine 12) using two connecting components (a bolt 22 and a sleeve 38).

Thus, because Sikula completely fails to disclose a door panel, a window regulator housing component, and a window regulator drive system component as well as a structure that secures these components together with a fourth component, Sikula fails to anticipate claims 1-7, 10-12, 15-17 and 19-22. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary, however, the Commissioner is authorized

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to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,




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**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, (703) 872-9306, on December 19, 2003.



Beth A. Beard